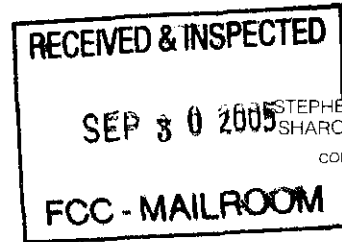




KURT ADAMS  
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
242 STATE STREET  
18 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0018

September 27, 2004



STEPHEN L. DIAMOND  
SHARON M. REISHUS  
COMMISSIONERS

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Portals II  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Suite TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher  
Vice President of High Cost and Low  
Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative  
2000 L. Street, NW – Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, USF Certification as Required by 47 C.F.R.  
§ 54.314 for the year 2006

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) certifies that, to the best of our knowledge, the federal high-cost support funds provided to RCC Minnesota, Inc., are being used only for the provision, maintenance, upgrading and extension of facilities and services for which the support is intended as provided by Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The MPUC Certification of Compliance with 47 C.F.R. 54.314(e) is based on the representations made by RCC Minnesota, Inc. in a letter filed September 6, 2005, a copy of which is attached.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Joel Shifman at [joel.shifman@maine.gov](mailto:joel.shifman@maine.gov) or at (207)287-1381.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick Damon  
Administrative Director

PD/lp  
Attachment

No. of Copies 0  
Listed as 005



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

**ELECTRONICALLY FILED ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2005**

Patrick Damon, Administrative Director  
Maine Public Utilities Commission  
State House Station 18  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: **RCC MINNESOTA, INC., SRCL HOLDING COMPANY, AND SACO  
RIVER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION  
Request for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier  
MPUC Docket No. 2002-344**

**THIS IS A VIRTUAL DUPLICATE OF THE ORIGINAL HARDCOPY  
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS  
ELECTRONIC FILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Dear Mr. Damon:

In connection with the above-noted matter, Joel Shifman recently requested that RCC Minnesota, Inc., ("RCC") provide updated information regarding the amount and disposition of funds received as a result of RCC's designation by this Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier. We understand that this information is requested in connection with the Commission's annual high-cost certification to the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.314 of the FCC's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.314. RCC was designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") by the Commission on May 13, 2004, for the purpose of receiving high-cost support under the federal universal service program.

RCC's designation in areas served by several rural ILECs was contingent on the FCC granting its concurrence with the proposed redefinition of those service areas under Section 214(e)(5) of the Act. RCC filed its petition for concurrence on June 24, 2003, and finally received FCC concurrence in its Order dated March 17, 2005. As the Commission is aware, the FCC's concurrence as to RCC's entire ETC territory in Maine was delayed for almost two years while the FCC considered the objection of the Telephone Association of Maine. The Maine Commission's letter to the FCC requesting that the FCC proceed to decide this case was most helpful in eventually securing a decision from the FCC, and RCC wishes to again express its thanks to the Commission for its efforts.

On June 2, 2005, this Commission extended RCC's ETC service area to cover the entire state of Maine.

From the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, RCC received \$3,290,556 in high-cost support from the Universal Service Fund. Based upon support received thus far, RCC currently receives support at a rate of approximately \$340,000 per month, and thus would expect to receive an additional \$2 million for the remainder of 2005.

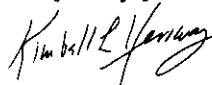
RCC activated new cell sites in the Rumford, Strong and Bethel areas during the period from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. RCC continues to work on new sites in China, which RCC hopes to bring online during the third quarter of 2005, and Fort Kent, where delays due to a heavily litigated local permitting proceeding continue. (The Fort Kent Planning Board recently voted to issue the necessary land use permit to RCC, but opponents may appeal this decision to the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals.) Additional cell sites in Oxford, Orono (near Rt 2), Chelsea, Buxton, Pittsfield, Sidney, Lincolnville, and Winthrop were activated or are currently under construction in these rural areas.

RCC was able to accomplish several other signification upgrades to its Maine network with USF funding, including (a) sectorizing the Vassalboro, Lincoln/Fish Hill, and Clinton cell sites, (b) replacing antennas at a number of rural sites such as Herman II, Carmel, Vassalboro, and Sugarloaf Mountain, (c) installing generators at RCC's Patten, Symrna/Ludlow, Brownville, and Charleston sites, and (d) adding additional channel capacity at various rural locations.

RCC has also used ETC funding to continue the deployment of a next-generation technology using a GSM platform. This network migration is necessary because RCC's current technology platforms are scheduled to sunset by 2007 and new research and development on these platforms ceased several years ago.

I trust the information provided above will assist the Commission in completing its high-cost re-certification for RCC.

Very truly yours,



Kimball L. Kenway

cc: Elizabeth Kohler, Esq.  
Steven Otto  
David LaFuria, Esq.